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<p>(54) Title: BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVE COMPOSITION COMPRISING CYCLOSPORINE</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>Biologically active composition based on an L2-phase of a specific monoglyceride, a specific triglyceride and a specific polar liquid, a cyclosporine being dissolved or dispersed in said L2-phase as the biologically active substance. A process for the preparation of said composition, wherein the cyclosporine is added to the L2-phase before, during or after the formation of the same. Use of said L2-phase for the encapsulating of a cyclosporine for the manufacture of an orally administrable preparation for use as an immunosuppressive agent.</p>					

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Biologically active composition comprising cyclosporine.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a novel biologically active composition based on an L2-phase and more specifically to such a composition containing a specific 5 class of biologically active substances, viz. cyclosporins. Thus, it has unexpectedly been found that considerable advantages are accomplished as concerns the oral uptake of said active substances compared to other similar active substances in L2-phases.

10 The invention also relates to a process for the preparation of said composition and to such a composition for use for oral administration.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 L2-phases of the type to which the present invention relates have been disclosed in detail in European patent specification No. 0 314 689. Thus, the background of the use of L2-phases, especially for medical purposes, is described in detail in said patent specification, which 20 means that information in these respects can be found in the same. However, the present invention is based on the unexpected discovery that the use of an L2-phase of the kind referred to gives a drastically improved oral uptake 25 of a cyclosporin as the biologically active substance in such compositions. This is neither disclosed nor suggested in said patent specification.

Pharmaceutical compositions containing cyclosporin in glyceride-containing carriers are also previously known per se, viz. from US-A-4,388,307 and 30 EP-A2-0 539 319, but said carriers have compositions different from that of the specific carrier upon which the composition according to the present invention is based. Furthermore, it is essential to note that the known compositions are conventional L1-compositions, and not L2-

compositions as in the present case, and that they have not been shown to possess the advantageous properties of the composition according to the present invention, especially the extremely reproducible and selective uptake in 5 the small intestine, as compared to the uptake of other peptides which may cause immunological reactions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In other words the present invention is based on the 10 same type of L2-phase that is disclosed in EP-A-0 314 689 but having a novel, specific class of biologically active substances therein, viz. cyclosporins.

Cyclosporins is a group of compounds which chemically are cyclic peptides, and many of them possess immunosuppressive activities. The cyclosporin which has beyond comparison become the most important one is cyclosporin A, which is in fact often the compound referred to when speaking about cyclosporin in general.

Cyclosporin A is a potent immunosuppressive agent, 20 which has been disclosed per se in literature and which is a cyclic peptide consisting of 11 amino acids and having a molecular weight of approximately 1.2 kDa. Many of the amino acids present therein are of an uncommon structure and are strongly hydrophobic. The hydrophobicity of 25 cyclosporin A is further enhanced by the fact that seven of said amino acids are N-methylated.

However, according to the present invention it has unexpectedly been found that the L2-phase implements a considerably improved uptake of cyclosporins through the 30 intestinal wall, and in a very reproducible way, as compared to similar compounds, such as other peptides.

Thus, as far as we know, there are no data in the literature which suggest that the uptake of peptides in the intestinal tract might be enhanced by the incorporation 35 thereof in an L2-phase of the kind referred to.

However, in accordance with the invention it has been found that cyclosporin A solubilized in the L2-phase is

taken up very efficiently in the small intestine, according to those tests in rat which are disclosed below.

"Normally" peptides must not be taken up in the intestinal tract, since this might cause immunological reac-

5 tions. We have also made comparisons with other peptides, e.g. DDAVP, but not found the high uptake that was observed for cyclosporin A.

More specifically, the present invention relates to a biologically active composition based on A) an L2-phase
10 comprising (a) at least one monoglyceride of an unsaturated fatty acid having 16-22 carbon atoms or a vegetable or animal oil transformed into such a monoglyceride, (b) at least one triglyceride of an unsaturated fatty acid having 16-22 carbon atoms or a vegetable or animal oil
15 containing such a triglyceride, and (c) at least one polar liquid selected from the group consisting of water, glycerol, ethylene glycol and propylene glycol, the weight ratio of monoglyceride to triglyceride being within the range of from 1:1 to 3:1, and B) a biologically
20 active substance dissolved or dispersed in said L2-phase, the characterizing feature of the composition being that said biologically active substance is a cyclosporin.

The composition according to the invention can contain any cyclosporin, but the preferred cyclosporin according to the present invention is cyclosporin A. Another interesting cyclosporin for use in the invention is cyclosporin G. Further examples of cyclosporins in connection with the invention are cyclosporin C, dihydrocyclosporin C, cyclosporin D, dihydrocyclosporin D and iso-
30 cyclosporin D.

Another preferable embodiment of the composition claimed is represented by the case where the composition is adapted as a pharmaceutical composition and especially for oral administration, as said route of administration
35 has been shown to give an unexpectedly high uptake of the active ingredient, which could not be theoretically foreseen.

Furthermore, another interesting observation in connection with the invention is that when varying the concentration of the cyclosporin in the L2-phase an uptake is achieved which is not proportional to the concentration. In other words especially advantageous results are achieved at increasing or higher concentrations.

Generally the cyclosporin can be utilized in such a low concentration as from 0.1% by weight up to the saturation concentration, based on the weight of the total composition, but in practice the lower limit typically is at least 1% by weight or at least 2% by weight, a preferable range being represented by 2-20% by weight, more preferably 5-20% by weight and most preferably 8-15% by weight.

Expressed in another way a specially preferable embodiment of the invention could be said to be represented by at least 8% by weight and up to the saturation concentration, based on the fact that the uptake of the active ingredient has been found to be higher at higher concentrations, i.e. the increase is higher than proportional to the concentration.

As was mentioned above the L2-phase per se has been closely described in EP-A-0 314 689, which means that detailed information thereabout can be found in said document. However, some advantages of the L2-phase and preferable embodiments of the invention can be summarized as follows.

The L2-phase is advantageous inter alia in that it is thermodynamically stable and therefore has no tendency to phase separate with time and in that it has distinct hydrophilic and hydrophobic domains, which enables the dissolution (solubilization) or dispersion of water-soluble as well as water-insoluble substances.

The distinct hydrophilic and hydrophobic domains represent an organized structure that puts restrictions on the diffusion of the added compound, a fact which can be advantageously utilized for controlled release thereof.

Thus, the release rate of a bioactive substance is determined by the outer surface of the phase towards the surrounding medium and the proportions between hydrophilic and hydrophobic domains within the phase. As was mentioned above the L2-phase used in accordance with the present invention comprises or consists of at least one specific liquid monoglyceride, at least one specific liquid triglyceride and at least one polar liquid. Once these three ingredients of the system have been specified in each single case, the exact composition of the corresponding L2-phase can be found in the prior art, e.g. from a ternary phase diagram. An example of such a phase diagram, viz. for the system of sunflower oil monoglyceride/soybean oil/water at 40°C and 90°C, can be found in EP-A-0 314 689 referred to above.

Generally, the monoglyceride thus is a monoglyceride of an unsaturated fatty acid having 16-22 carbon atoms. However, often it is not necessary or even preferable to utilize said monoglyceride in the pure form. Rather it is preferably used in the form of a natural product essentially transformed into such a monoglyceride, such as a vegetable or animal oil essentially transformed into the appropriate monoglyceride. The measure of transforming an oil of the type referred to such that it comprises essentially the monoglyceride is a previously known process and need not be described more in detail herein. Thus, in principle the reaction is a re- or transesterification of the oil with an excess of glycerol.

In this context it could also be added that separation of saturated monoglyceride species by a fractionation of the total monoglyceride mixture can be performed in order to avoid a crystallization of the final L2-composition during storage thereof at refrigerator temperature. If for instance sunflower oil monoglycerides are used, the monopalmitin content can be drastically reduced by cooling the ethanol solution down to about 10-12°C and separation of the crystals at said low temperature.

According to a preferable embodiment of the invention the monoglyceride is a monoglyceride of an unsaturated fatty acid having 18 carbon atoms or a vegetable or animal oil transformed into the same. An especially preferable monoglyceride from this group is monoolein or monolinolein or the corresponding transformed vegetable or animal oil.

The triglyceride used is a triglyceride of at least one unsaturated fatty acid having 16-22 carbon atoms, but also in this case a natural product containing said triglyceride can replace the same, such as a vegetable or animal oil containing the desired triglyceride.

A preferable embodiment of the invention is represented by the case where the triglyceride is a triglyceride of at least one unsaturated fatty acid having 18 carbon atoms or a vegetable or animal oil containing the same, an especially preferable oil being soybean oil.

The polar liquid utilized in the claimed composition can be any of the liquids referred to and preferably mixtures thereof, which are preferable for the control or adjustment of the oral uptake of the biologically active material from the L2-phase. In other words different polar liquids or different proportions between polar liquids can be used to control or adjust the oral uptake of the active substance. A preferable mixture in this connection is a mixture of propylene glycol and glycerol. For such an adjustment of the oral uptake also common salt, i.e. sodium chloride, can be used.

As was mentioned above the exact composition of a specific L2-phase can be taken from a phase diagram while taking into consideration the desired oral uptake of the active compound, i.e. in this case a cyclosporin, which uptake or rate is determined by a person skilled in the art by simple animal tests. Generally, however, the weight ratio of monoglyceride to triglyceride is within the range of from 1:1 to 3:1, a preferable weight ratio being from 2:1 to 2.5:1, most preferably approximately

7:3.

The content of polar liquid is generally dictated by the maximum liquid content of the L2-phase region, which typically does not exceed 12-14% (weight/weight). A proper liquid content therefore is within the range of about 5 4-12, preferably about 5-10, % by weight.

As was mentioned above the composition according to the invention is especially interesting as a pharmaceutical composition and especially for oral administration. 10 Therefore, a highly preferable embodiment of the invention is represented by a composition containing a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier adapted for oral administration.

According to another aspect of the invention there 15 is provided a process for the preparation of the above-defined composition. Said process is characterized by forming a mixture of said monoglyceride and triglyceride in such amounts thereof that an L2-phase is formed when contacting said mixture with the polar liquid, and adding 20 the cyclosporin to dissolve or disperse the same in said L2-phase, said addition being performed before, during or after the formation of said L2-phase.

Generally this means that the cyclosporin is added to the L2-phase after said phase has been formed, but it 25 can also be added e.g. to the polar liquid before the L2-phase has been formed.

Before describing certain embodiments of the process according to the invention the following should be noted. The liquid aggregates of the L2-phase or the interphasial 30 zone between the hydrophilic and hydrophobic regions of the phase provide the sites of oral uptake of the active substance dissolved in said phase. In the case of a very low solubility of the active substance in the phase, it can be dispersed within the same. The L2-phase has a very 35 low interphasial tension towards an outside polar liquid phase and it is therefore easily emulsified in a polar liquid.

Since cyclosporins are a relatively sensitive group of substances, a preferable embodiment of the process claimed means that the cyclosporin is first dissolved in the polar liquid. Then the solution obtained is admixed 5 with the monoglyceride-triglyceride mixture, the mixing operation preferably being performed by dropwisely adding the monoglyceride-triglyceride liquid to the cyclosporin solution.

This is the best way of maintaining the native peptide structure. If the drops are added to the cyclosporin solution with an interval around 1 sec, the L2-phase formed will swell to the limit of water swelling between each addition. In this way the cyclosporin will keep the water environment needed during the whole preparation 15 process.

With reference to the process according to the invention it should also be added that preferable embodiments thereof correspond to those preferable embodiments which have been described above in connection with the 20 composition. Therefore, such embodiments need not be repeated here.

Finally, the invention relates to the use of the above-mentioned L2-phase for the encapsulating of a cyclosporin for the manufacture of a preparation having an 25 outstanding and controllable uptake profile for the active substance. Preferably said preparation is the preparation of an orally administrable preparation and especially for use as an immuno suppressive agent.

30 EXAMPLES

Some embodiments of the invention will now be described more in detail by the following non-limiting examples.

35 EXAMPLE 1

L2 for hard gelatin capsules

An L2-phase with 2, 6, 10 and 15% by weight of cy-

cyclosporin A was manufactured by dissolving the cyclosporin in a mixture containing 63% of glyceryl monooleate, 27% of glyceryl trioleate, 7.5% of propylene glycol and 2.5% of water. This cyclosporin formulation is a 5 clear liquid having a low viscosity, which can be filled in hard gelatin capsules without any amended properties of said capsules after 10 days. In this context it should be noted that if the corresponding L2-phase having water as the only polar liquid is filled in capsules, said capsules will be tacky and deformed after 10 days.

EXAMPLE 2

L2-interindividual variation of the cyclosporin uptake in rats.

15 The interindividual variation of the uptake of cyclosporin from L2-phase containing 2, 6 and 10% from Example 1, after intragastric administration to rats, was studied and a summary thereof is presented in the table below. Said table presents the variance of the AUC*-
20 values for 8 rats. The table indicates that the highest concentration is the best one, as it shows the lowest variance value.

	Cyclosporin concentration %	variance
25	2%	39%
	6%	20%
	10%	14%

* = Area under the curve

EXAMPLE 3

30 L2-self emulsifying cyclosporin preparation

This example shows that the uptake of cyclosporin from a lipid mixture with an L2-structure is independent of the addition of an emulsifying food stuff ingredient (casein). An L2-mixture of 2% of cyclosporin, 62% of 35 glyceryl monooleate, 26% of glyceryl trioleate and 10% of

water was prepared. This mixture was utilized either without further treatment or after dispersing the same in a 1.1% casein solution.

The uptakes of said preparations were studied in 5 rats after intragastric administration, and the results are summarized in the enclosed Figure. Graph A shows the uptake of cyclosporin after intragastric administration of Sandimmun®. Graphs B and C show the uptake of cyclosporin after administration of an L2-mixture and an 10 L2-phase dispersed in a casein solution, respectively.

According to the information we have Sandimmun® is Ciclosporin in a carrier of ethanol, maize oil and non-ionic surfactant.

15 EXAMPLE 4

L2-cyclosporin preparation formed at body temperature

An L2-phase with 10% of cyclosporin was prepared by dissolving the cyclosporin at somewhat elevated temperature and stirring the same into 90% of L2-phase. The 20 composition of the L2-phase was 63% of glyceryl monooleate, 27% of glyceryl trioleate, 7.5% of propylene glycol and 2.5% of glycerol.

The homogeneous preparation was subjected to freezing at -18°C, where the lipid mixture crystallized. At 25 room temperature the mixture still is mainly crystalline and non-liquid, but at 37°C the mixture is an L2-phase of low viscosity.

N.B.

30 Glyceryl monooleate and glyceryl trioleate referred to above are technical qualities thereof. The glyceryl monooleate was prepared from pine oil having a high content of oleic acid, while the glyceryl trioleate was prepared from sunflower oil.

CLAIMS

1. Biologically active composition based on A) an L2 phase comprising (a) at least one monoglyceride of an unsaturated fatty acid having 16-22 carbon atoms or a vegetable or animal oil transformed into such a monoglyceride, (b) at least one triglyceride of an unsaturated fatty acid having 16-22 carbon atoms or a vegetable or animal oil containing such a triclyceride, and (c) at least one polar liquid selected from the group consisting of water, glycerol, ethylene glycol and propylene glycol, the weight ratio of monoglyceride to triglyceride being within the range of from 1:1 to 3:1, and (B) a biologically active substance dissolved or dispersed in said L2 phase, characterized in that said biologically active substance is a cyclosporin.

2. A composition according to claim 1, characterized in that said cyclosporin is cyclosporin A.

3. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said cyclosporin is present in an amount of from 1 % by weight up to the saturation concentration, based on the weight of the biologically active composition.

4. A composition according to claim 3, characterized in that said amount of cyclosporin is 2-20 % by weight, preferably 5-20 % by weight, and most preferably 8-15 % by weight.

5. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said monoglyceride is a monoglyceride of an unsaturated fatty acid having 18 carbon atoms or a vegetable or animal oil transformed thereto.

6. A composition according to claim 5, characterized in that said monoglyceride is selected from the group consisting of monoolein and monolinolein or a vegetable

or animal oil transformed thereto.

7. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said triglyceride is a triglyceride of an unsaturated fatty acid having 18 carbon atoms or a vegetable or animal oil containing the same.

8. A composition according to claim 7, characterized in that said triglyceride is soy bean oil.

9. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the weight ratio of monoglyceride to triglyceride is within the range of from 2:1 to 2.5:1, preferably around 7:3.

10. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said polar liquid is a mixture of glycerol and propylene glycol.

11. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized by an amount of said polar liquid of about 4-12, preferably 5-10 % by weight.

12. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims for use as an orally administerable pharmaceutical composition, characterized in that it contains a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier intended for oral administration.

13. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized by containing sodium chloride as an agent for modifying the oral uptake of the active substance.

14. A process for the manufacture of a biologically active composition according to any one of claims 1-13, characterized by forming a mixture of said monoglyceride and triglyceride in such amounts thereof that an L2 phase is formed when contacting said mixture with the polar liquid, and adding the cyclosporin to dissolve or disperse the same in said L2 phase, said addition being

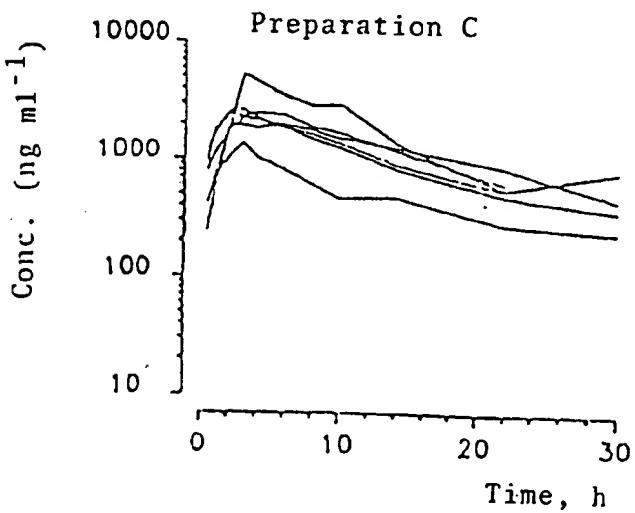
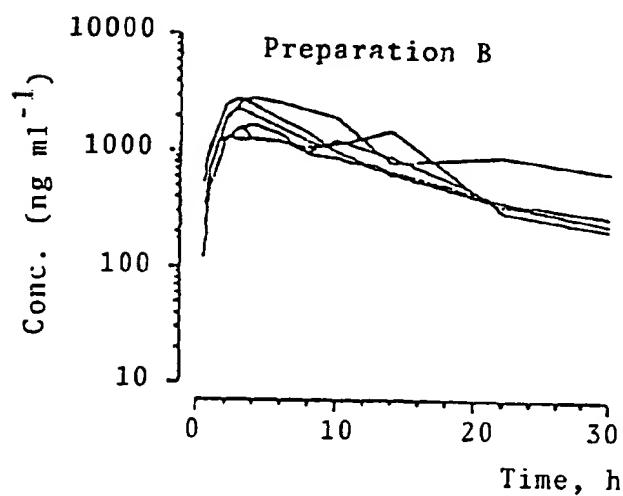
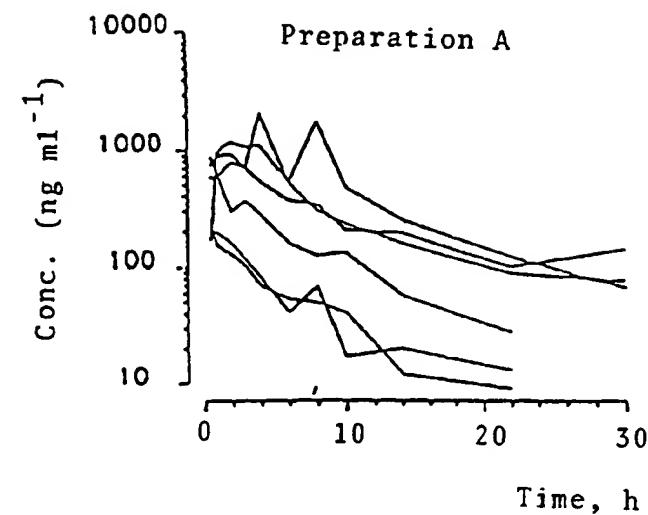
performed before, during or after the formation of said L2 phase.

15. A process according to claim 14, characterized by forming a mixture of the monoglyceride and the 5 triglyceride, dissolving the cyclosporin in the polar liquid, preferably water, and adding, by drops, the monoglyceride-triglyceride mixture to the solution of cyclosporin in polar liquid.

16. Use of an L2 phase as defined in any one of 10 claims 1-13 to encapsulate a cyclosporin for the manufacture of an orally administerable preparation for use as an immunosuppressive agent.

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FIGURE



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: A61K 38/13, A61K 9/127, A61K 9/107

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE, DK, FI, NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

MEDLINE, BIOSIS, EMBASE, WPI, WPIL, CA, US PATENTS FULLTEXT

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4388307 A (THOMAS CAVANAK), 14 June 1983 (14.06.83), abstract and example 6, column 8, line 65 - line 68 --	1-16
A	EP 0539319 A2 (SANDOZ LTD), 28 April 1993 (28.04.93), page 2, line 44 - line 48; page 12, line 52 - line 53, claim 2, abstract --	1-16
A	WO 8800059 A1 (DRILLETEN AB), 14 January 1988 (14.01.88) --	1-16

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

8 October 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>Liquid Lipid-Water Phases, Volume 5, 1994, Kåre Larsson, "Lipids-molecular organization, physical functions and technical applications", page 1 - page 237, see page 166</p> <p>-----</p>	1-16

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

05/09/96

International application No.	
PCT/SE 96/00893	

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